

## REGIONAL MORGUE TASK FORCE

### MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2019

Task Force Members Present: Chair Craig McEwen, Lisa Grill Dodson, Scott Rifleman, Michael Clark, Phil Rentmeester, Vicki Resech

Others Present: Brad Karger, Patrick Carroll, Jessica Blahnik, Loren White

1. Call to Order: Craig McEwen called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM
2. Presentation on Financial Analysis: Patrick Carroll of Wipfli presented his findings with regard to the financial viability of a Regional Morgue owned by Marathon County and operated out of the NCHC Campus. In summary, Wipfli concludes that a Regional Morgue can cover its operational costs, but cannot cover the capital costs needed for renovation of an existing facility. The capital debt payment is in the range of \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually for 20 years, depending on the project costs. The space that currently houses the aquatic therapy pool has 15,000 square feet available and could be renovated for 2.62 million dollars.

Brad Karger and Jessica Blahnik talked about a number of meetings they have initiated with various organizations and individuals looking for capital funding including:

- Aspirus
- Assemblyman Pat Snyder
- Senator Tom Tiffany
- Dwight and Linda Davis Foundation

The consistent message heard was that the Counties benefiting from the regional facility need to contribute financially to the capital costs before any grant money is allocated. Foundations and the State might be willing to augment local funds, but none want to be the sole financier.

3. Next Steps:
  - a. As Portage County leaders have expressed interest in the project, the next step will be a meeting in Steven Point to discuss the current situation and ask them to consider a partnership with Marathon County to help make this project go.
  - b. Wipfli will create a written summary of their findings on the financial sustainability of the project. When we have a plan for funding the capital project, that summary can be updated and converted into a full blown business plan.  
MOTION BY DODSON, SECOND BY RIFLEMAN TO ADOPT THE NEXT STEPS AS DISCUSSED.  
MOTION CARRIED.
4. Adjournment: MOTION BY RIFLEMAN, SECOND BY DODSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES PREPARED BY BRAD KARGER ON HIS LAST DAY OF EMPLOYMENT, 12/30/2019.